



Before You Get Started

Welcome to the 2016 Gold Medal Awards Program. We welcome the applicants from the armed forces recreation and the applicants for the 5 population categories.

The application and process for all categories is now hosted on the NRPA website at <http://www.nrpa.org/goldmedal/>

The American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) are pleased to report that there are only minor changes to Gold Medal Awards program for population categories and Armed Forces.

All applications are in an online format.

Population Categories:

Class I	400,001 and over
Class II	150,001– 400,000
Class III	75,001 – 150,000
Class IV	30,001 – 75,000
Class V	less than 30,000

- Video Requirement: Gold Medal Finalists are being asked to post to their web page a short (social media type) video, a MAX of 5 minutes by June 5. Judges will view this short video that helps support information provided in the application. Video should tell the story how your agency is unique and outstanding, while capturing images that support application responses; and serves as a media communication piece to your community! Any video approach may be used but will only be considered in round 2 judging discussions if 5 minutes or less and posted by June 5.
- Support Materials: Applicants will be asked to provide the following:
 - 3 page Executive Summary of your most current Comprehensive Plan for the agency.

- Links to your website, program brochure and Master Plan. Please ensure links work. If not available electronically, hard copies will be accepted. Please mail 6 copies of the Program Brochure and 1 copy of the Master Plan to NRPA Headquarters.
- Sessions for Questions and Clarification: NRPA on behalf of the AAPRA will be holding a question and answer web chat. This web chat has been scheduled for February 3, 2016, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., EST. Please register at www.nrpa.org/goldmedal and be sure to click the “remind me” button for an email reminder.

***Suggestions for Responding to Questions 15 through 23**

The questions require that responses to questions be Concise and Direct. The intent of this was to enable both the applicant and the judges to pinpoint the most critical or important endeavors of the agency as it relates to each area of questioning.

To assist your agency in this effort, here are some web links that might be helpful:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/writing-concisely/>

http://grammar.about.com/od/words/tp/clutter_tips.htm

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/635/1/>

<http://www.writeshop.com/blog/2010/04/16/5-tips-for-writing-concisely/>